

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2629  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23-03-2023**

**PROTECTION OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION**

**2629: SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH:**

**Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:**

- a) whether India has signed the G7 resolution committing to protect freedom of expression and opinion, online and offline;
- b) whether, as per the World Press Freedom index 2021, India is placed at 150 of 180 countries, down by two places compared to 2019;
- c) whether, according to the Right and Risk Analysis, 121 journalists and media houses were targeted in the country during last year; and
- d) whether the new Information Technology Act and IT Rules of 2021 make media houses and companies criminally liable for content that is critical of the Government?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND  
MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS  
(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)**

- (a) G7 countries and Partner Countries (including India) adopted a 'Resilient Democracies Statement' at the June 2022 G7 Summit**

**which inter alia affirmed their commitment to strengthening the resilience of democracies and to working towards equitable, inclusive and sustainable solutions to global challenges, etc.**

**(b) The World Press Freedom Index is published by a foreign Non-Government-Organization, “Reporters Without Borders”. The Government does not subscribe to its views and country rankings and does not agree to the conclusions drawn by this organisation for various reasons including very low sample size, little or no weightage to fundamentals of democracy, adoption of a methodology which is questionable and non-transparent, etc.**

**(c) ‘Police’ and ‘Public Order’ are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India and State Governments are responsible for prevention, detection, registration and investigation of crime and for prosecuting the criminals through their law enforcement agencies.**

**Central Government attaches highest importance to the safety and security of every citizen of the country including journalists. An advisory specifically on safety of journalists was issued to States/ UTs on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017 requesting them to strictly enforce the law to ensure the safety and security of media persons, which is available on the website [www.mha.gov.in](http://www.mha.gov.in).**

**(d) For news on digital media, the Government has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rule, 2021 under Information Technology Act which inter-alia provides for adherence of Code of Ethics by publishers of news on digital media and a three tier mechanism for redressal of grievance relating to Code of Ethics.**

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